GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:662
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
PILGRIM CENTRES AS TOURIST SPOTS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare pilgrim centres as tourist spots in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such pilgrim centres, and the time by which the Government is likely to declare such centres as tourist spots, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to improve the amenities/facilities available in the pilgrim centres and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether tourism initiatives are affecting the traditions and values of the pilgrim centres; and

(e) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) & (b): No, Madam.

(c): Development of infrastructure including pilgrim centers is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to States/UTs for tourism projects, including those relating to pilgrim centres, which are prioritized every year based on discussions with them, subject to availability of funds, inter- se priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines. The details of admissible amenities/components under this scheme are given at Annexure.

(d) & (e): The Ministry of Tourism promotes rich culture and heritage of the country through tourism. The Ministry facilitates tourists by improving the amenities in the tourist places. Hence its initiatives do not affect the traditions and values adversely in the pilgrim centres.